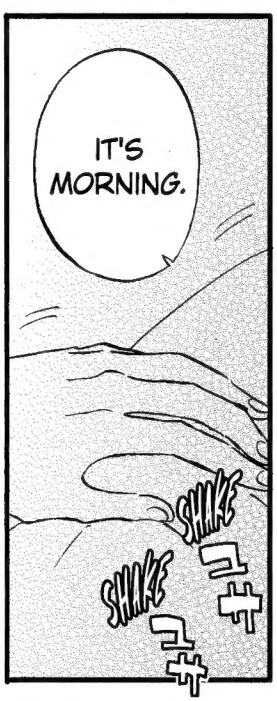
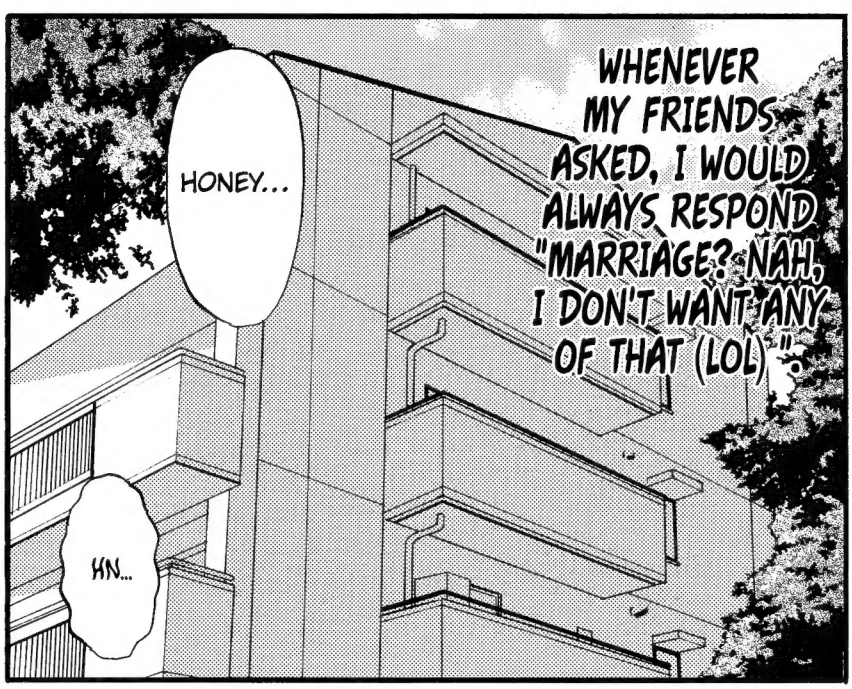
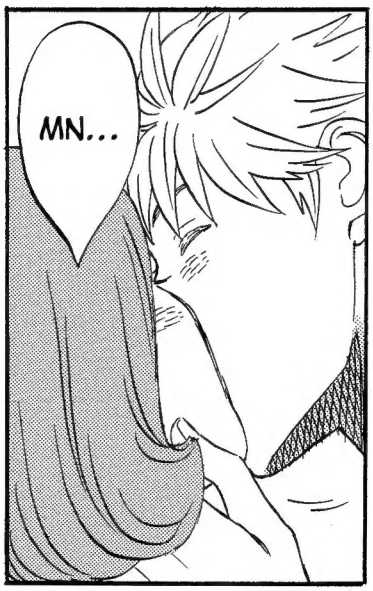
Chapter 9: Kirishima-kun's Taste in Women

MARRIAGE WAS STILL A LONG WAY OFF.

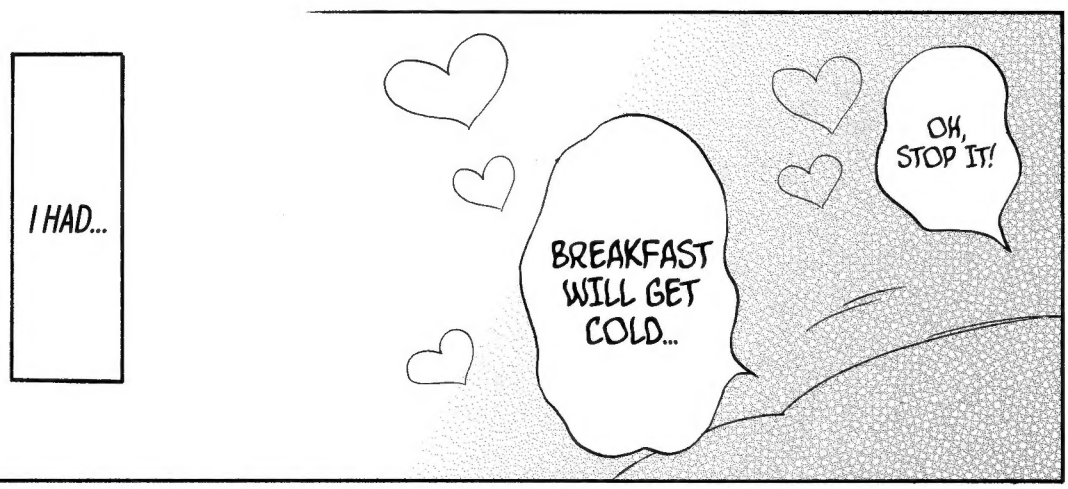




KNN...
ヒョイ POP
FINALLY AWAKE?
...
MURMUR
MURMUR
...
HM? I COULDN'T HEAR WHAT YOU SAID...
GRIP
ド
Fwump
EEK!

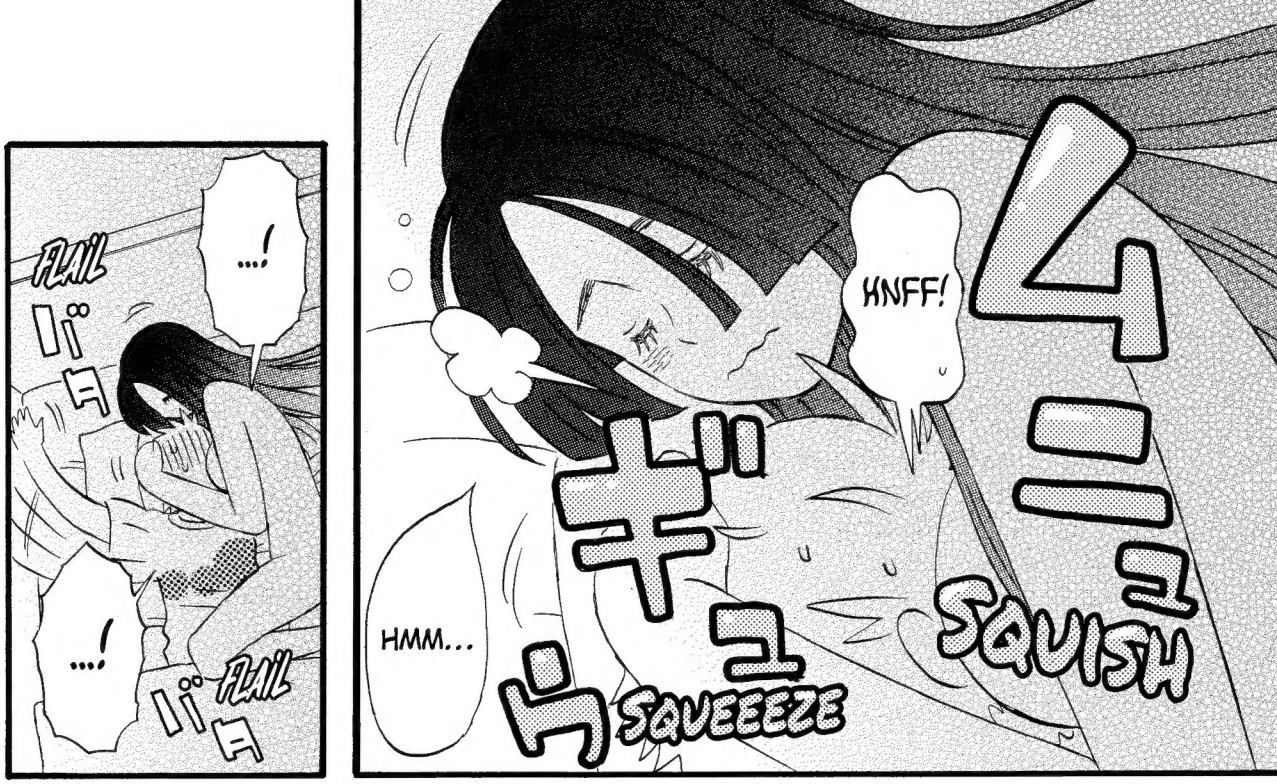

MN...

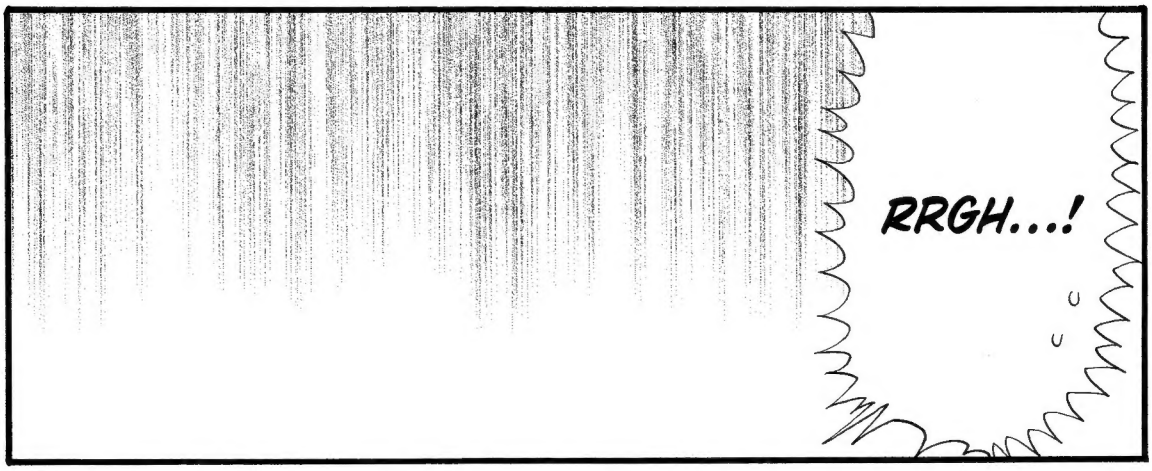
I SAID, "GOOD MORNING".
GEEZ... DON'T SURPRISE ME LIKE THAT!

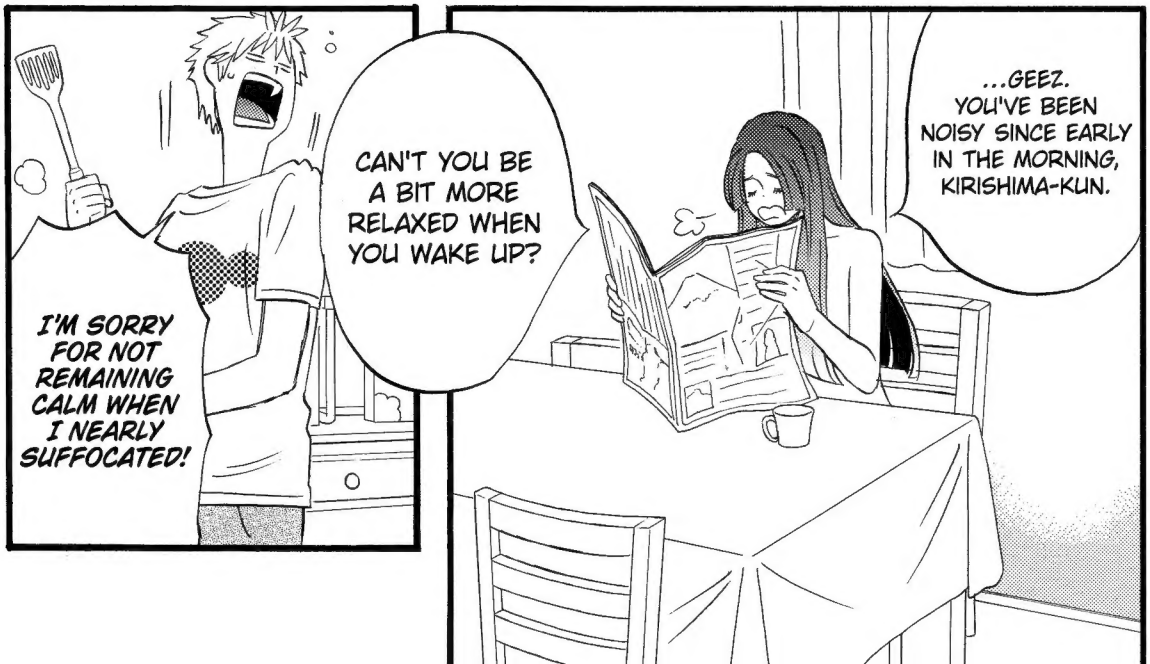

I HAD...
BREAKFAST WILL GET COLD...
OH, STOP IT!

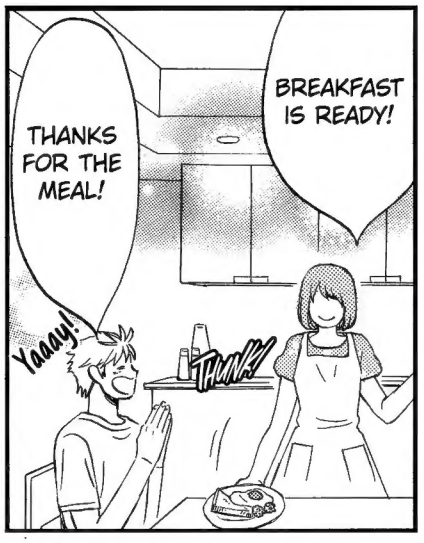
BLINK...
I IMAGINED THEY COULD BE.
WONDERED IF MY MORNINGS WOULD BE LIKE THAT AFTER I GOT MARRIED.
?
THERE'S SOMETHING HEAVY...?

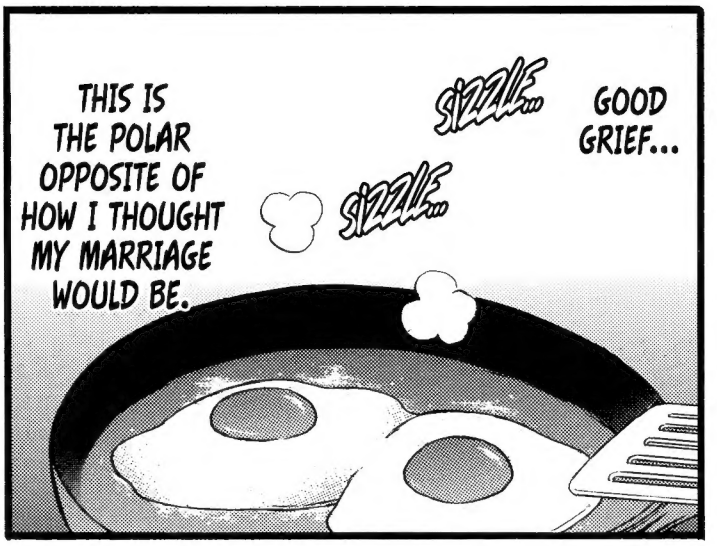
ZZZ...
ZZZ...
YES. I IMAGINED THAT. BUT...
GLOMP...

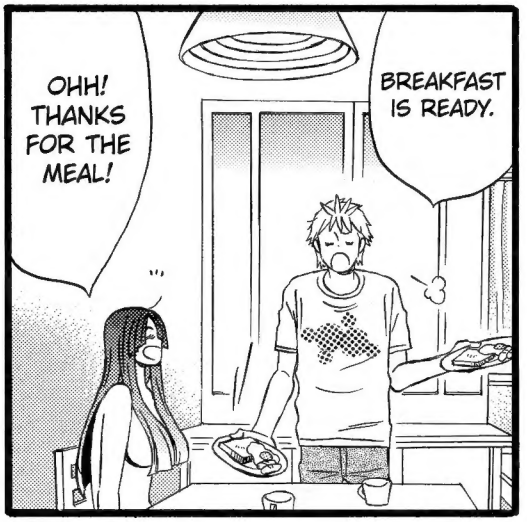

...!
FLAIL
パタ
...!
FLAIL
パタ
HNFF!
HMM...
ムニュ
SQUISH
ギュ
SQUEEEZE

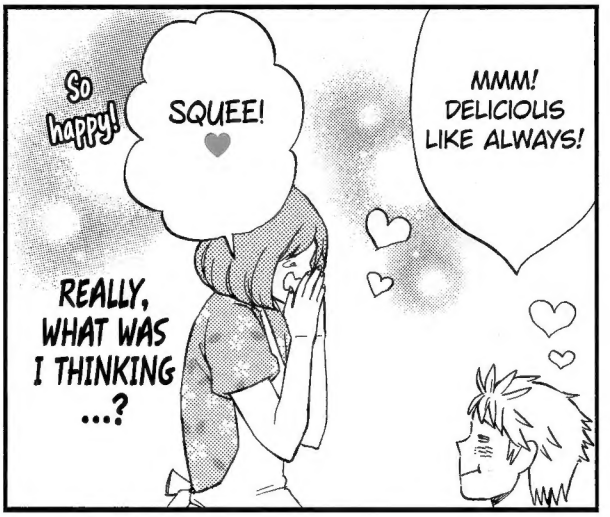

RRGH...!


I'M SORRY FOR NOT REMAINING CALM WHEN I NEARLY SUFFOCATED!
CAN'T YOU BE A BIT MORE RELAXED WHEN YOU WAKE UP?
...GEEZ. YOU'VE BEEN NOISY SINCE EARLY IN THE MORNING, KIRISHIMA-KUN.

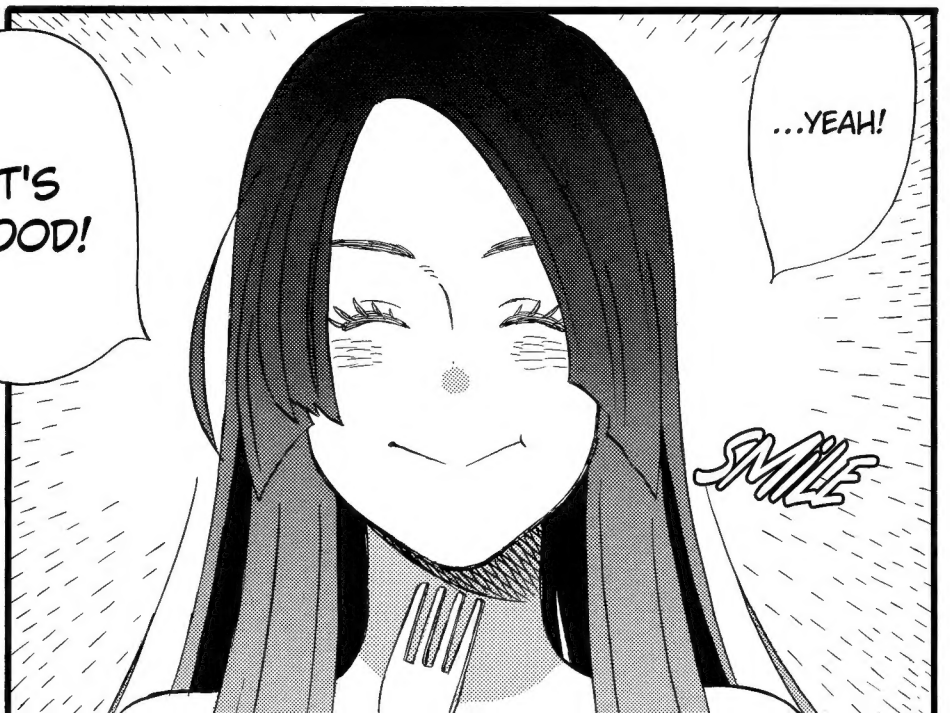

BREAKFAST IS READY!
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
Yaaay!
THUNK!


THIS IS THE POLAR OPPOSITE OF HOW I THOUGHT MY MARRIAGE WOULD BE.
SIZZLE...
SIZZLE...
GOOD GRIEF...


BREAKFAST IS READY.
OHH! THANKS FOR THE MEAL!


MMM! DELICIOUS LIKE ALWAYS!
SQUEE!
So happy!
REALLY, WHAT WAS I THINKING ...?

IT'S GOOD!
...


...YEAH!
SMILE

It's just a fried egg. No need to exaggerate.

Your seasoning is perfect now. Exquisite, even!

No, but seriously...

I'M GLAD THAT YOU LIKE IT...

Ah!

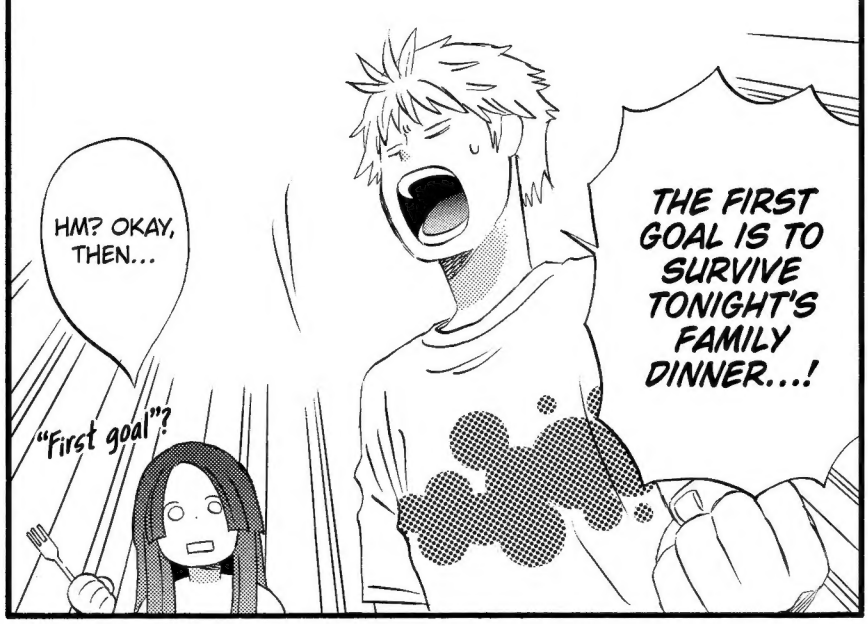
...

I'VE GOT TO GET A HOLD OF MYSELF! I NEED TO FIND A JOB SOON AND ASK FOR A DIVORCE!

I REALLY CAN'T KEEP GETTING INVOLVED WITH THIS STRANGE, EXHIBITIONIST WOMAN!

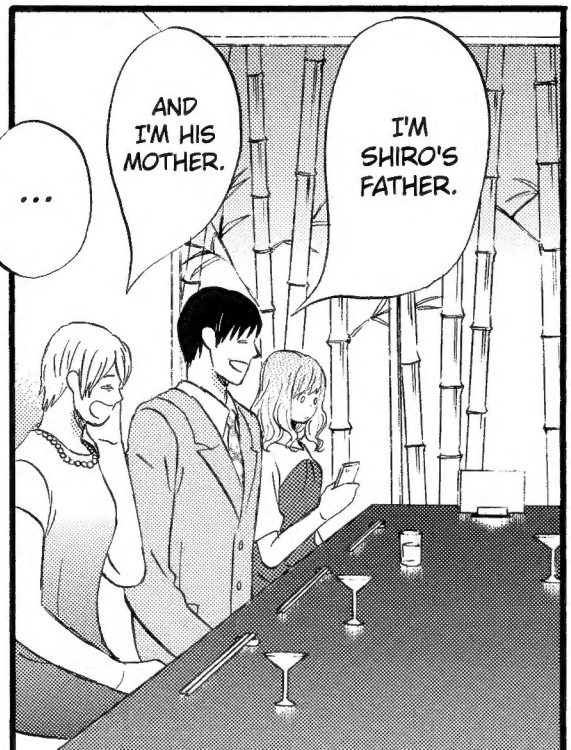
...HEY, NOW! WHY AM I THINKING, "THIS KIND OF LIFE MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD..."?!

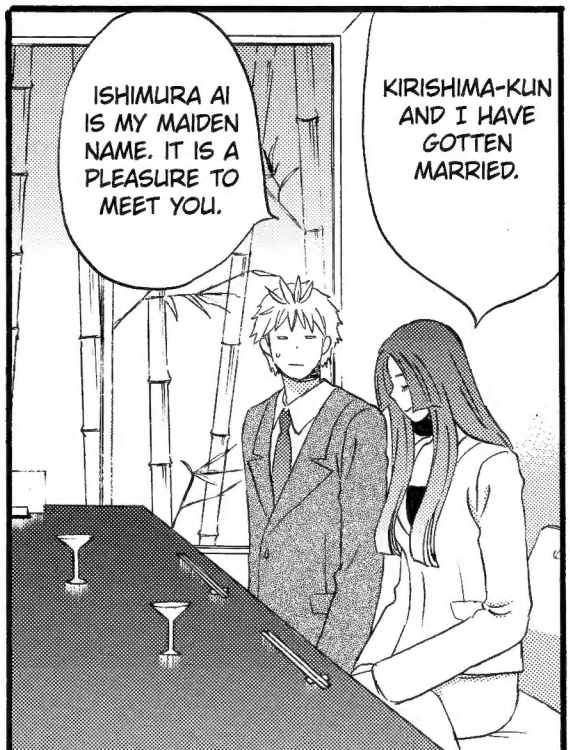
GRIND GRIND


THE FIRST GOAL IS TO SURVIVE TONIGHT'S FAMILY DINNER...!
HM? OKAY, THEN...
"First goal"?

ALL RIGHT ...

I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE WHEN IT HAPPENS...!
Suzuan
...AHEM. I APOLOGIZE FOR TAKING UNTIL NOW TO MEET YOU...

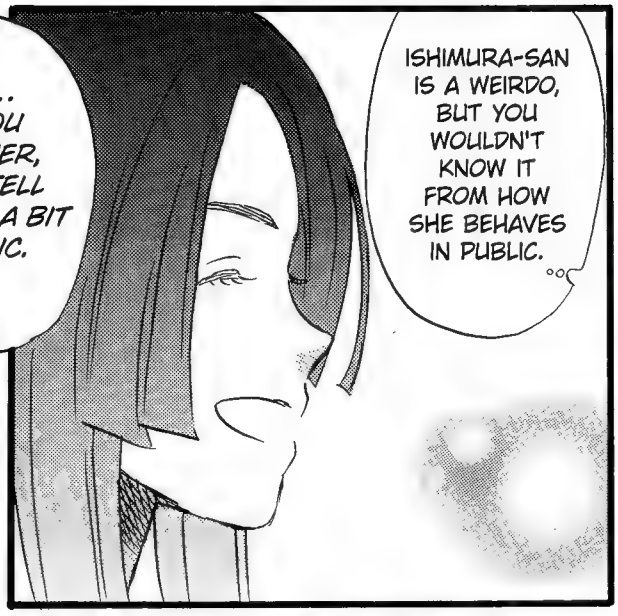

I'M SHIRO'S FATHER.
AND I'M HIS MOTHER.
...

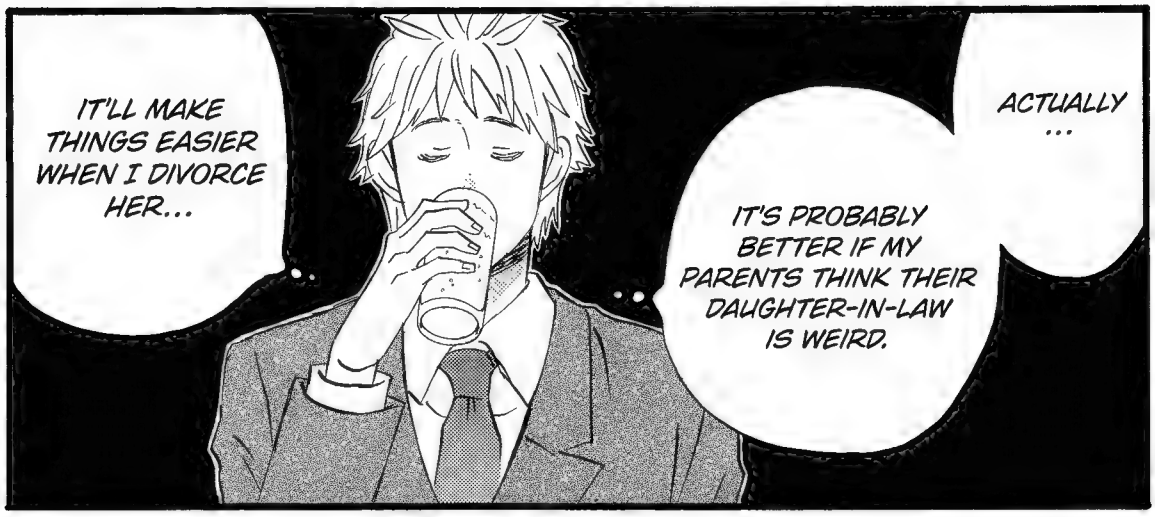

KIRISHIMA-KUN AND I HAVE GOTTEN MARRIED.
ISHIMURA AI IS MY MAIDEN NAME. IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

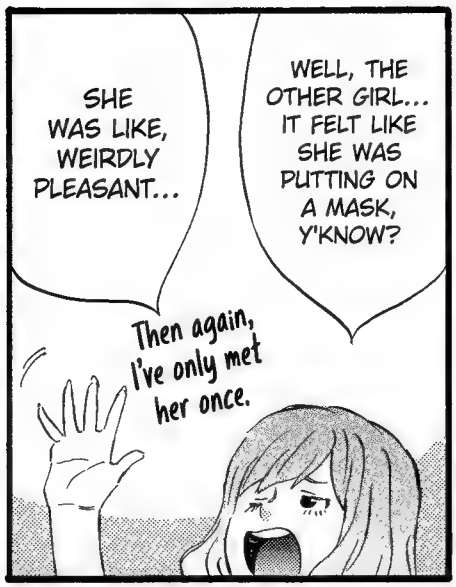
I'm a high school student! ♪
NICE TO MEET YOUUU...
I'M HIS SISTER MAYU!
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.

Put your phone away!
HEY. YOU TOO!
OH, SORRY.

I MEAN... WHEN YOU TALK TO HER, YOU CAN TELL THAT SHE'S A BIT ECCENTRIC. BUT...
OTHER THAN THAT, SHE LOOKS NORMAL.


ISHIMURA-SAN IS A WEIRDO, BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IT FROM HOW SHE BEHAVES IN PUBLIC.


IT'LL MAKE THINGS EASIER WHEN I DIVORCE HER...
ACTUALLY ...
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER IF MY PARENTS THINK THEIR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW IS WEIRD.


SHE WAS LIKE, WEIRDLY PLEASANT...
WELL, THE OTHER GIRL... IT FELT LIKE SHE WAS PUTTING ON A MASK, Y'KNOW?
Then again, I've only met her once.

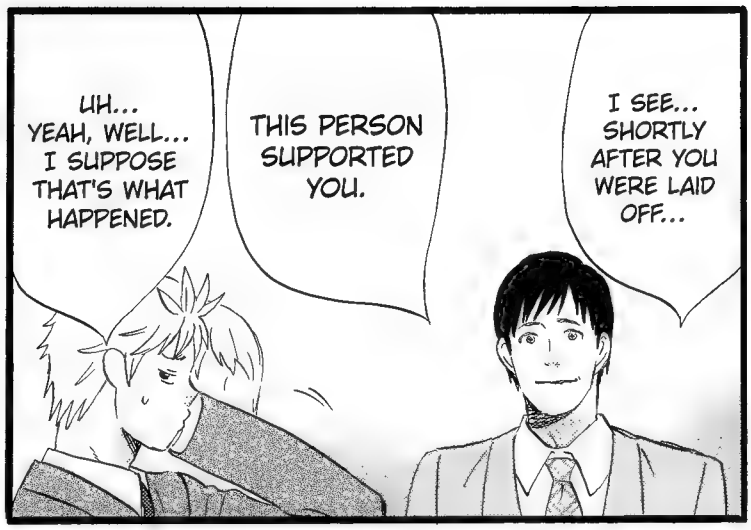
WHAT'S WITH YOU, ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
HUUH?!
BIG BRO! THIS GIRL'S A LOT BETTER THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE!
SHOUT
Trust me!
And don't point at people.

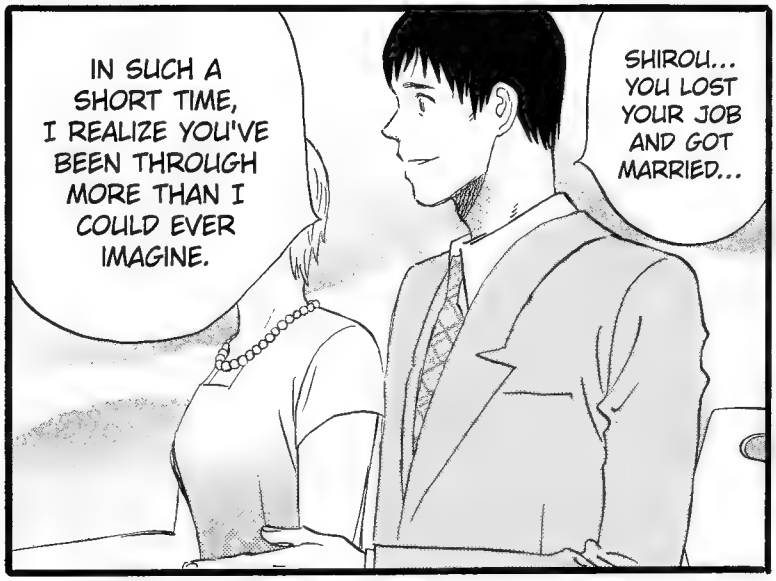
MAYU!
YOU SHOULDN'T BADMOUTH HER LIKE THAT!
Bleeeeh!
HONESTLY I REALLY DISLIKE THAT TYPE OF PERSON.

YOUR PREDICTION IS SO SPOT ON THAT IT FEELS AS IF YOU WERE SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO US WHEN IT HAPPENED.
I BET SHE BAILED BECAUSE BIG BRO LOST HIS JOB.

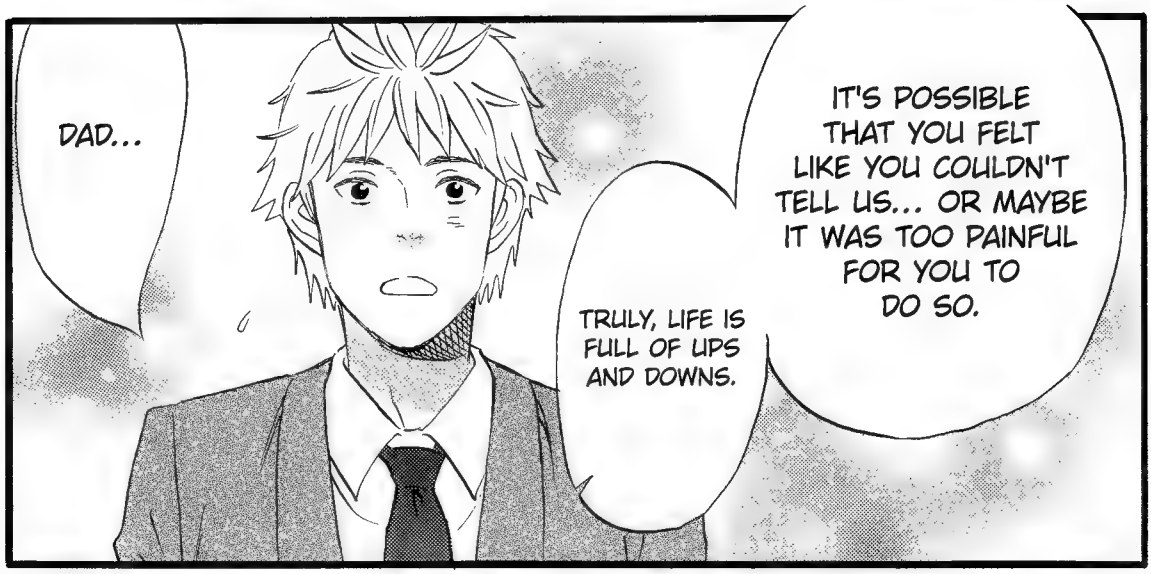
LIKE, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU GUYS BROKE UP, BUT...
WHAAAT? BUT I'M SURE SHE WAS TWO-FACED...

IT'S CERTAINLY UNUSUAL FOR SOMEONE TO MARRY WITHOUT GIVING ANY NOTICE, BUT...

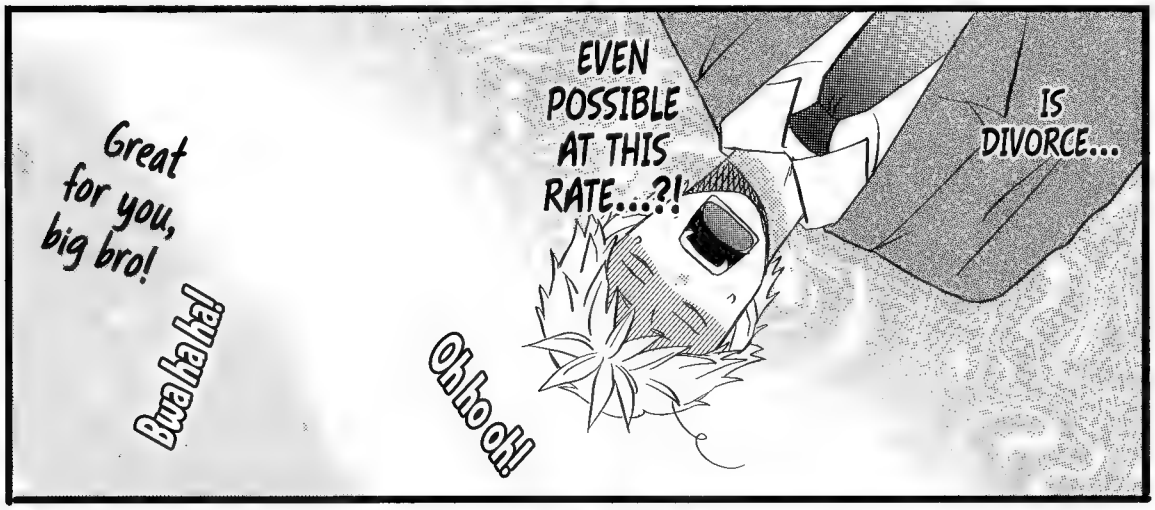

UH... YEAH, WELL... I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
THIS PERSON SUPPORTED YOU.
I SEE... SHORTLY AFTER YOU WERE LAID OFF...


IN SUCH A SHORT TIME, I REALIZE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH MORE THAN I COULD EVER IMAGINE.
SHIROU... YOU LOST YOUR JOB AND GOT MARRIED...

THEY ARE NOT CHILDREN.
I AGREE WITH YOU.

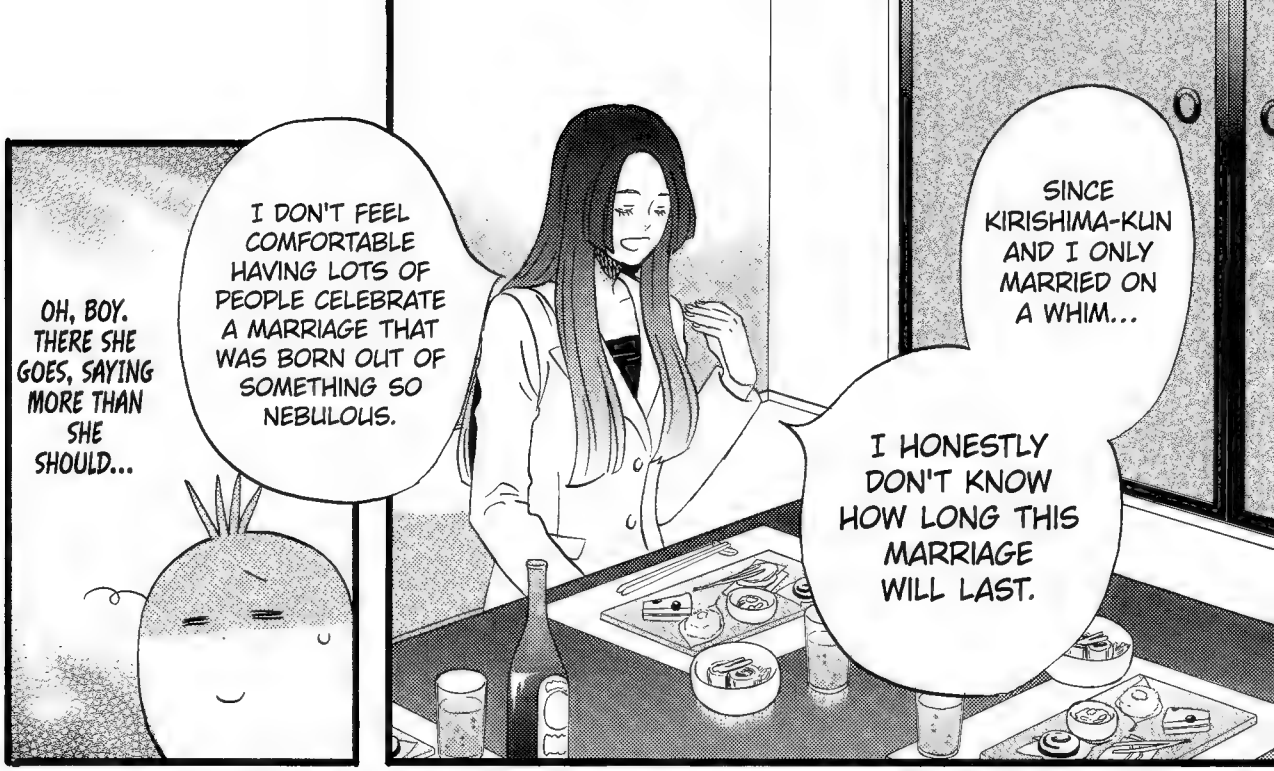

DAD...
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU FELT LIKE YOU COULDN'T TELL US... OR MAYBE IT WAS TOO PAINFUL FOR YOU TO DO SO.
TRULY, LIFE IS FULL OF UPS AND DOWNS.

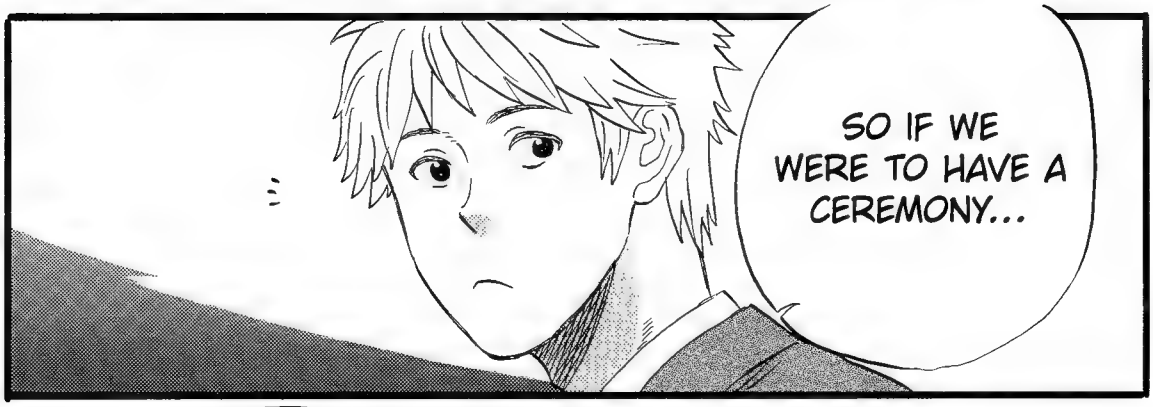
CONGRATS ON YOUR MARRIAGE!!
YOU LOST YOUR JOB, BUT EVERYTHING WORKED OUT WELL IN THE END!
BUT HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY! WHEN ONE DOOR SHUTS, ANOTHER OPENS!
TEE-HEE!
Oh no no!
...NOT GOOD. THESE GUYS ARE JUST RELIEVED THEIR OLDEST SON IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM!


Great for you, big bro!
Bwahaha!
Oh ho oh!
EVEN POSSIBLE AT THIS RATE...?!
IS DIVORCE...

I BELIEVE THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR THAT.
A CEREMONY... MIGHT BE A BIT...

EEEK...!
HUH?! WELL...
BY THE WAY, WILL YOU HAVE A CEREMONY?
SMILE
SMILE
SMILE

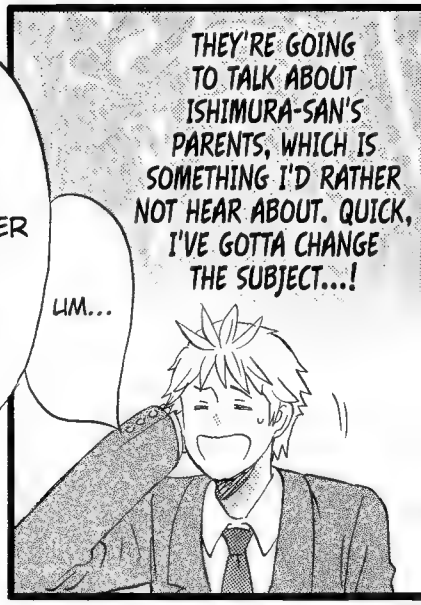

OH, BOY. THERE SHE GOES, SAYING MORE THAN SHE SHOULD...
I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE HAVING LOTS OF PEOPLE CELEBRATE A MARRIAGE THAT WAS BORN OUT OF SOMETHING SO NEBULOUS.
SINCE KIRISHIMA-KUN AND I ONLY MARRIED ON A WHIM...
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS MARRIAGE WILL LAST.

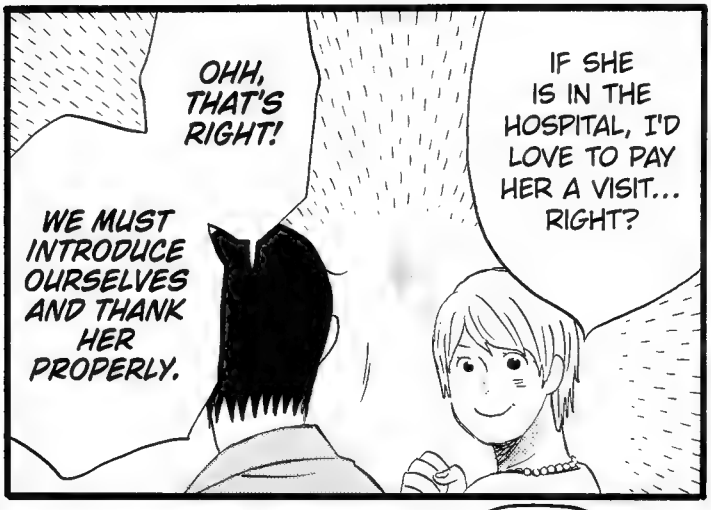

SO IF WE WERE TO HAVE A CEREMONY...

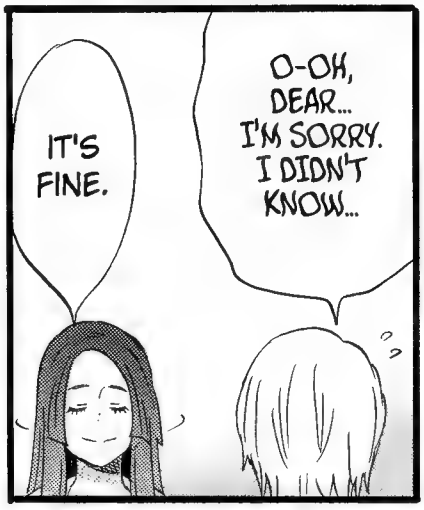
WE'VE KNOWN EACH FOR ONLY A SHORT TIME, BUT...
WHEN WE BOTH FIRMLY BELIEVE IN OUR HEARTS THAT WE'LL STAY TOGETHER UNTIL DEATH DO US PART...WE'LL DO IT.
IT WOULD BE AFTER 10 OR 20 YEARS OF MARRIAGE.
"OHH, I THINK I'LL BE WITH THIS PERSON FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE."

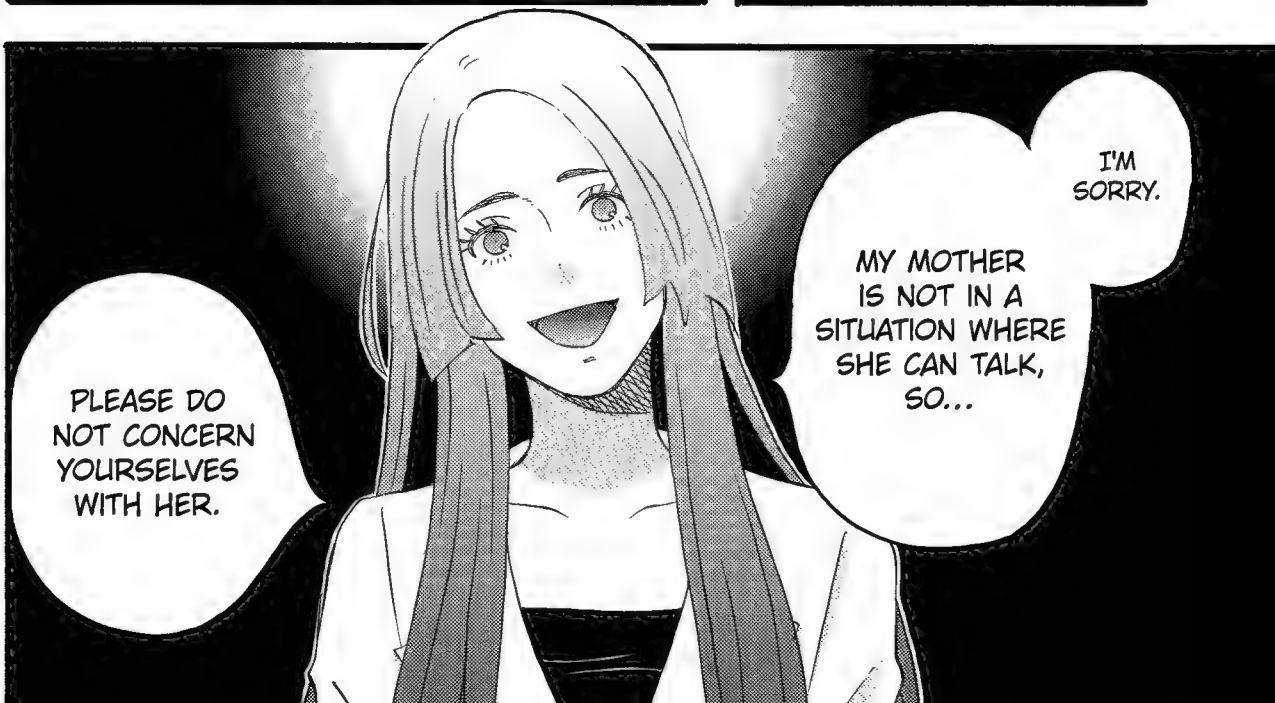
I KNOW THAT ISHIMURA-SAN ISN'T SOMEONE WHO SAYS ONE THING IN PUBLIC, AND ANOTHER IN PRIVATE.
AGE HARDLY MATTERS AS LONG AS WE CAN STILL DECLARE OUR LOVE, DON'T YOU THINK?
BY THEN, YOU GUYS MIGHT BE OLD AND FULL OF WRINKLES...
HA HA!
BUT TURNS OUT SHE ALSO HAS A VERY ROMANTIC SIDE?
I THOUGHT THAT SHE WAS EXTREMELY INDIVIDUALISTIC, WITH NO INTEREST IN INTERACTING WITH OTHERS...
Oh, crap.
YOUR PARENTS, TOO. I BELIEVE THEY WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU IN A WEDDING DRESS AS WELL...
I THINK THAT'S WONDERFUL, BUT...
I DO HOPE YOU HAVE IT WHILE SHIRO'S FATHER AND I ARE STILL ALIVE...

MY FATHER HAS ALREADY PASSED AWAY AND MY MOTHER HAS BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A VERY LONG TIME...


THEY'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT ISHIMURA-SAN'S PARENTS, WHICH IS SOMETHING I'D RATHER NOT HEAR ABOUT. QUICK, I'VE GOTTA CHANGE THE SUBJECT...!
UM...


IF SHE IS IN THE HOSPITAL, I'D LOVE TO PAY HER A VISIT... RIGHT?
OHH, THAT'S RIGHT!
WE MUST INTRODUCE OURSELVES AND THANK HER PROPERLY.

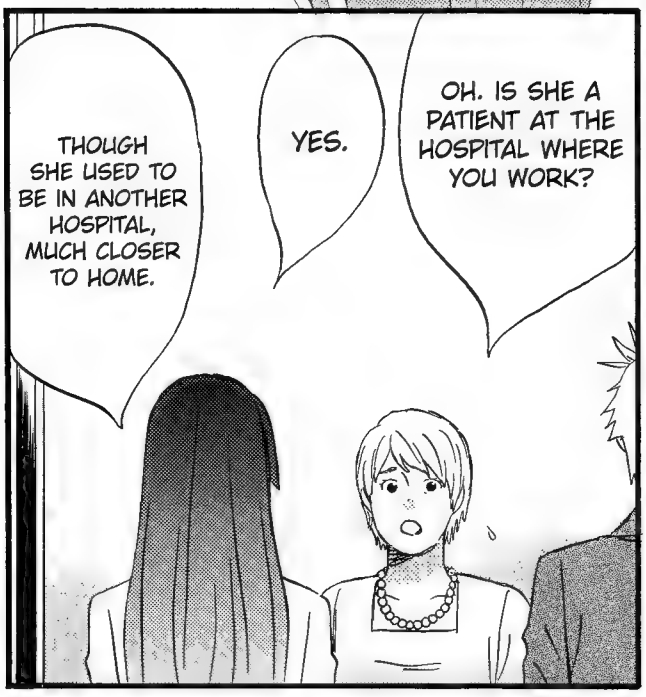

O-OH, DEAR... I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW...
IT'S FINE.

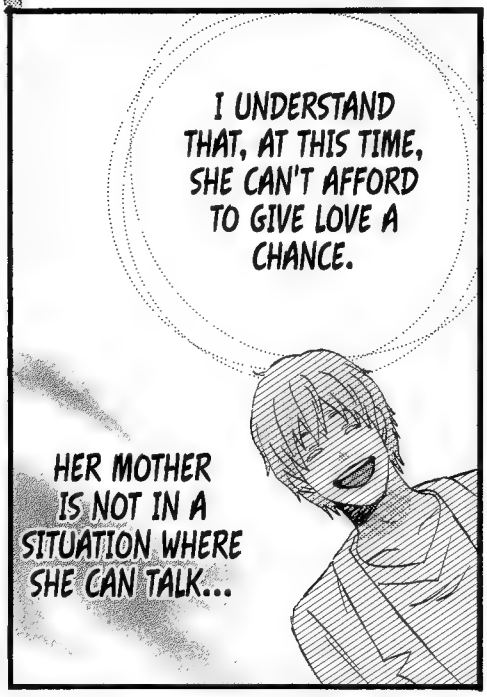

I'M SORRY.
MY MOTHER IS NOT IN A SITUATION WHERE SHE CAN TALK, SO...
PLEASE DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH HER.

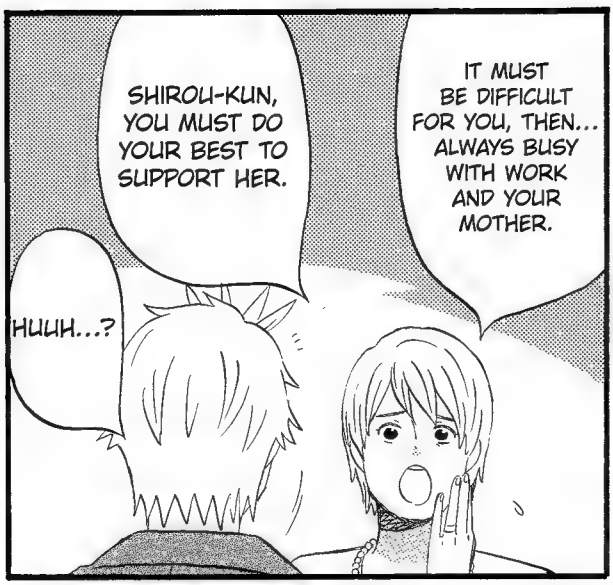
BUT YOU HAVE MY SINCEREST THANKS.

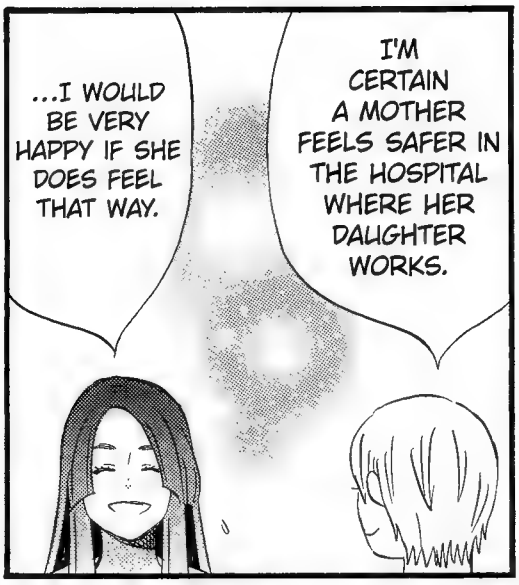
...AHH, I KNEW IT.

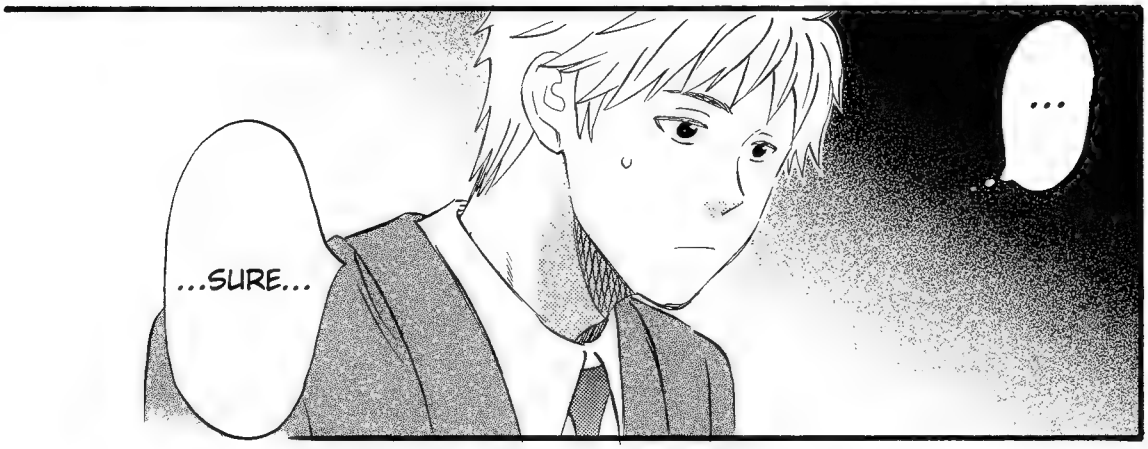
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT GUY SAID.



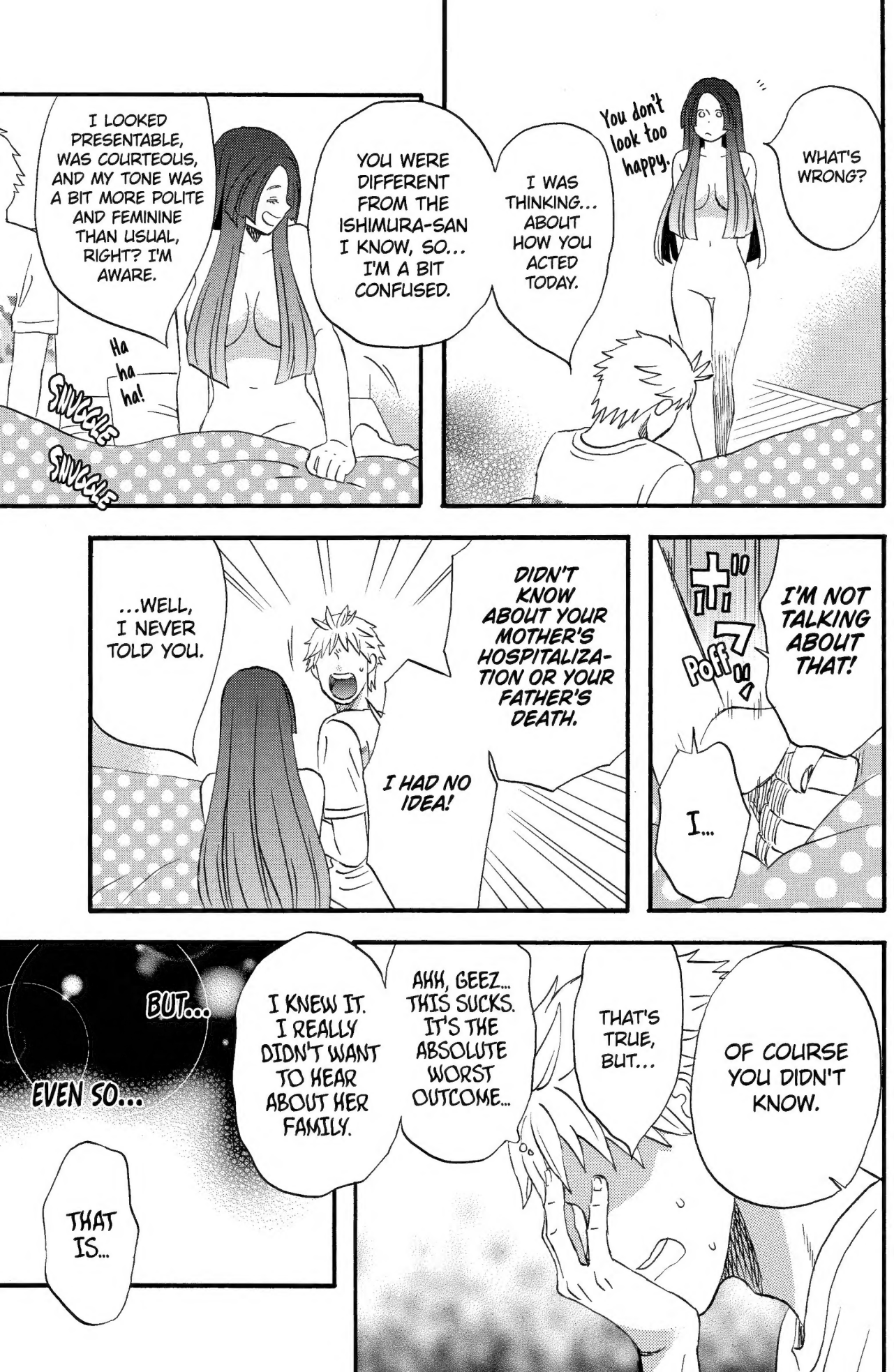



SHIROU-KUN, YOU MUST DO YOUR BEST TO SUPPORT HER.
IT MUST BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU, THEN... ALWAYS BUSY WITH WORK AND YOUR MOTHER.
HUUH...?


...I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF SHE DOES FEEL THAT WAY.
I'M CERTAIN A MOTHER FEELS SAFER IN THE HOSPITAL WHERE HER DAUGHTER WORKS.

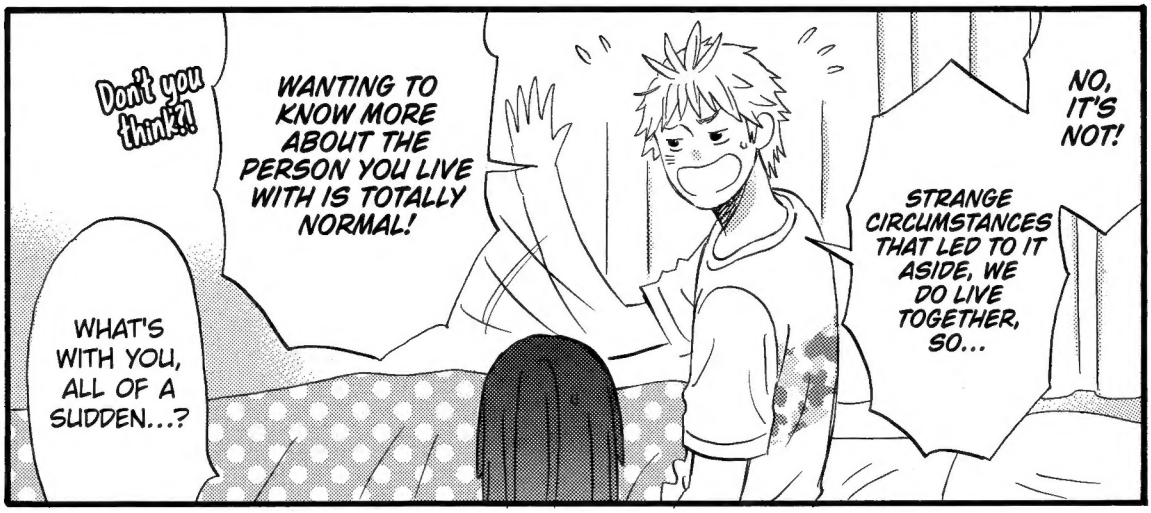

...SURE...
...

YOU HAVE A GOOD FAMILY. A BIT ON THE NOISY SIDE, BUT THAT'S NOT SO BAD.

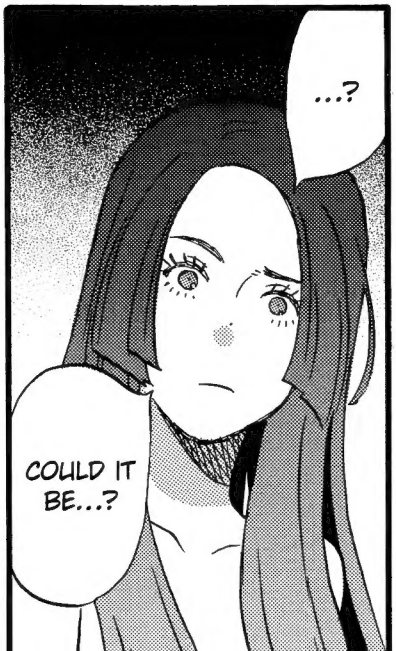

WHAT'S WRONG?
You don't look too happy.
I WAS THINKING... ABOUT HOW YOU ACTED TODAY.
YOU WERE DIFFERENT FROM THE ISHIMURA-SAN I KNOW, SO... I'M A BIT CONFUSED.
I LOOKED PRESENTABLE, WAS COURTEOUS, AND MY TONE WAS A BIT MORE POLITE AND FEMININE THAN USUAL, RIGHT? I'M AWARE.
Ha ha ha!
SNUGGLE
SNUGGLE
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT!
Poff
I...
DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR MOTHER'S HOSPITALIZATION OR YOUR FATHER'S DEATH.
...WELL, I NEVER TOLD YOU.
I HAD NO IDEA!
OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
AHH, GEEZ... THIS SUCKS. IT'S THE ABSOLUTE WORST OUTCOME...
I KNEW IT. I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HER FAMILY.
BUT...
EVEN SO...
THAT IS...

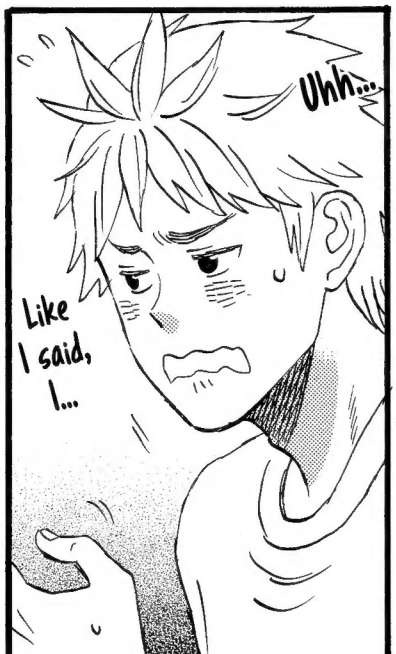
I MEAN, WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY ANYWAYS? YOU GET LIKE THAT SOMETIMES. IT'S WEIRD.
Your mood suddenly turns sour.
... HUH?

THAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION, SO WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?!
"WHY" ...?


NO, IT'S NOT!
STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO IT ASIDE, WE DO LIVE TOGETHER, SO...
WANTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PERSON YOU LIVE WITH IS TOTALLY NORMAL!
Don't you think?!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, ALL OF A SUDDEN...?

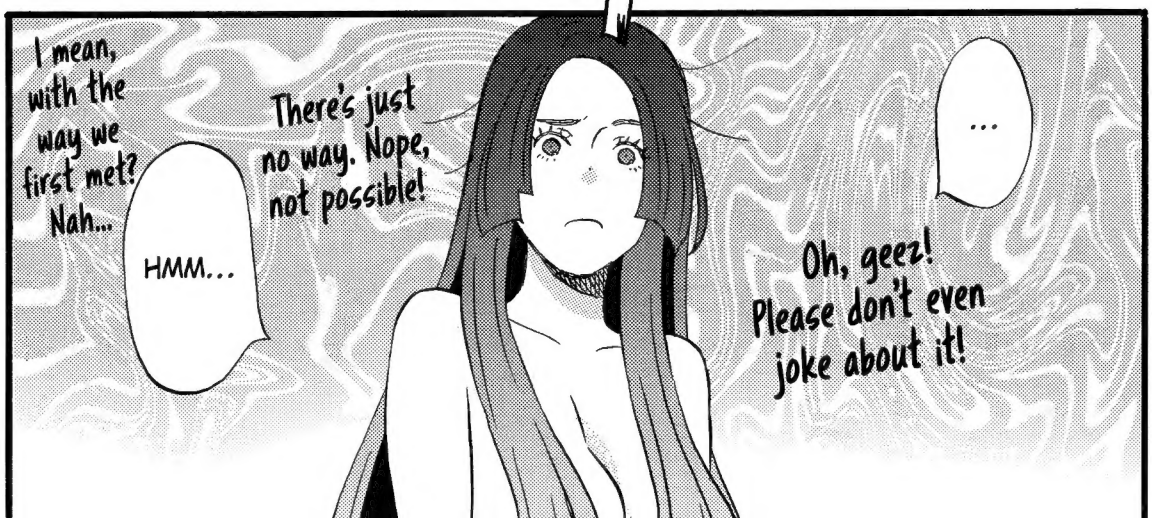
IF I'M WRONG, JUST CORRECT ME.
BUT DID YOU...

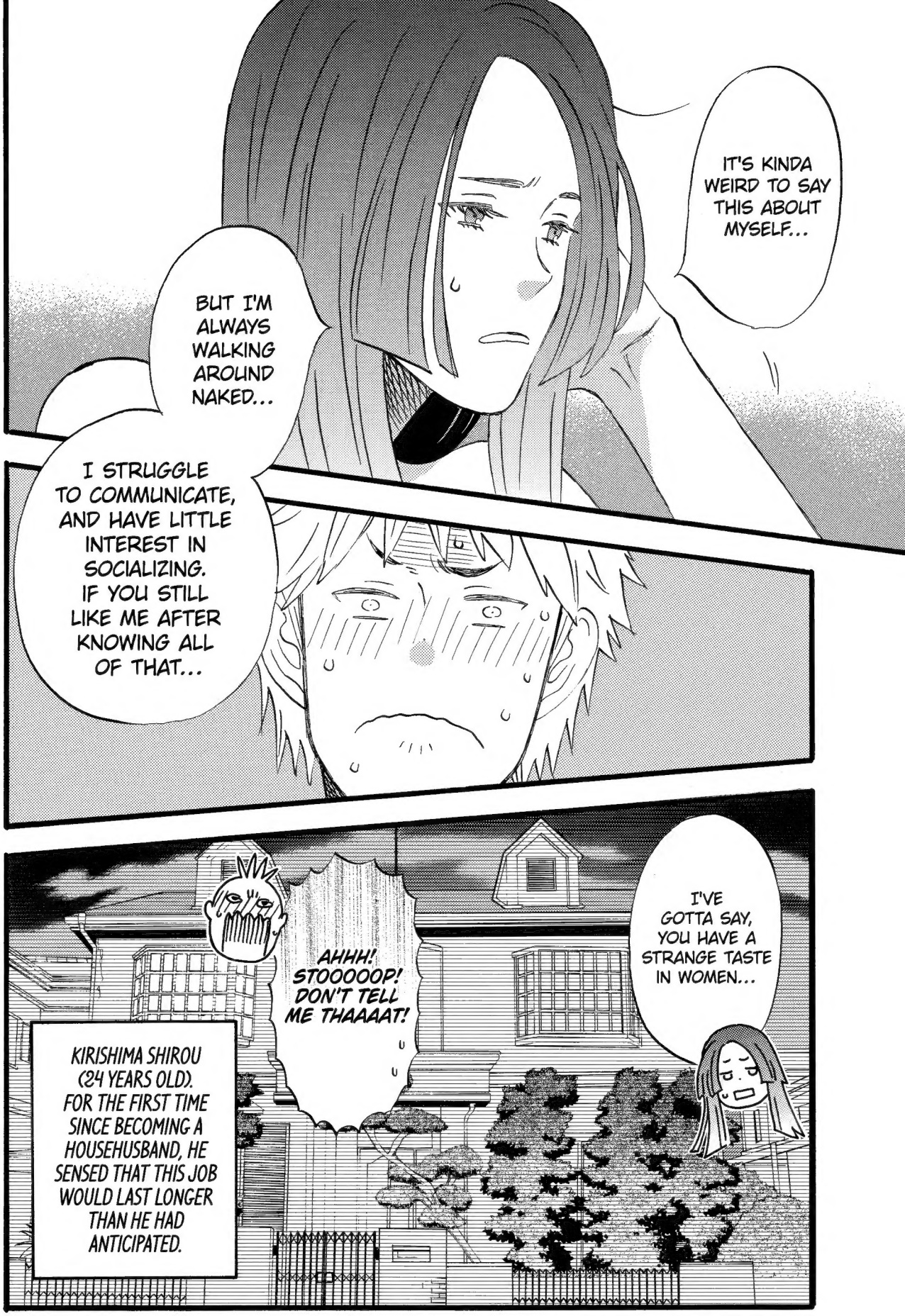

...?
COULD IT BE...?


Uhh...
Like I said, I...

UNCONSCIOUSLY START SEEING ME IN A ROMANTIC WAY?

...




IT'S KINDA WEIRD TO SAY THIS ABOUT MYSELF...
BUT I'M ALWAYS WALKING AROUND NAKED...
I STRUGGLE TO COMMUNICATE, AND HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN SOCIALIZING. IF YOU STILL LIKE ME AFTER KNOWING ALL OF THAT...
I'VE GOTTA SAY, YOU HAVE A STRANGE TASTE IN WOMEN...
AHHH! STOOOOOP! DON'T TELL ME THAAAAT!
KIRISHIMA SHIROU (24 YEARS OLD). FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE BECOMING A HOUSEHUSBAND, HE SENSED THAT THIS JOB WOULD LAST LONGER THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED.